

Highway Trust Fund, and only \$520.1 million was returned; and

"Whereas, in addition, even more money designated for return to Michigan, and several other states, is being withheld by federal transportation authorities. This money is critical to our transportation infrastructure and a vital component of the state's economic well-being.

"Whereas, the current budget debate offers an opportunity to reexamine this critical aspect of public spending. This examination should include immediately correcting the gross inequities in allocating the funds generated by the federal gas tax; now, therefore, be it

"Resolved by the Senate, That we respectfully, but urgently, ask the Congress of the United States to release to the states, including Michigan, any federal road funding due under the gas tax formula but currently being held back by the federal government; and be it further

"Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Michigan congressional delegation with the request that each member review this issue, offering a formal response to this body, the Michigan State Senate."

POM-516. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Washington; to the Committee on Finance.

"SENATE RESOLUTION 1996-8696

"Whereas, the Pacific Northwest Region comprising of Washington, Alaska, British Columbia, Alberta, Montana, Idaho, and Oregon contains numerous border crossings between the United States and Canada; and

"Whereas, cultural, social, and economic exchanges between the citizens, organizations, and businesses of the region have historically been and continue to be an integral part of the regions economic and cultural development; and

"Whereas, the historically close and constant ties between the two countries of Canada and the United States have been forged and maintained by continuous cultural exchanges ranging from fraternities, social, sports, and business clubs to name but a few; and

"Whereas, the rapid changes in global affairs require countries to renew and enhance their ties with neighboring states and countries; and

"Whereas, millions of individuals cross the borders of the Pacific Northwest per annum including numerous tourists expending billions of dollars in the United States and Canada; and

"Whereas, a border crossing fee as proposed by current federal legislation would adversely impact both the economy, culture, and quality of life for many of the regions' citizens; now, therefore, be it

"Resolved, That the Senate of the state of Washington opposes any proposal that would levy a fee on any individuals crossing the borders of the United States; and be it further

"Resolved, That copies of this resolution be immediately transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, each member of Congress from the State of Washington, Oregon, Montana, and Idaho, and the Secretary of the United States Customs and Immigration Department."

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. LAUTENBERG:

S. 1632. A bill to prohibit persons convicted of a crime involving domestic violence from owning or possessing firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. 1633. A bill to provide for school bus safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. DOLE, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. INOUE, and Mr. D'AMATO):

S. 1634. A bill to amend the resolution establishing the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Commission to extend the service of certain members; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. DOLE (for himself, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. HELMS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. LOTT, Mr. KYL, Mr. SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. COATS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. MACK, and Mr. DOMENICI):

S. 1635. A bill to establish a United States policy for the deployment of a national missile defense system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 1636. A bill to designate the United States Courthouse under construction at 1030 Southwest 3rd Avenue, Portland, Oregon, as the "Mark O. Hatfield United States Courthouse," and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 1637. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to revise the tax rules on expatriation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PRESSLER (for himself, Mr. GLENN, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. KERREY, Mr. BENNETT, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 1638. A bill to promote peace and security in South Asia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. DOLE (for himself, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. GRAMM):

S. 1639. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a demonstration project to provide the Department of Defense with reimbursement from the Medicare program for health care services provided to Medicare-eligible beneficiaries under TRICARE; to the Committee on Finance.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LAUTENBERG:

S. 1632. A bill to prohibit persons convicted of a crime involving domestic violence from owning or possessing firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

FIREARMS LEGISLATION

• Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, today I am introducing legislation that would prohibit individuals who have been convicted of a crime involving domestic violence from owning or possessing firearms.

Under current Federal law, Mr. President, it is illegal for people convicted

of felonies to possess firearms. Yet many people who engage in serious spousal or child abuse ultimately are not charged with or convicted of felonies. At the end of the day, maybe following a plea bargain, they are convicted of misdemeanors. And these people are still free under Federal law to possess firearms.

This legislation will close this loophole, and will help keep guns out of the hands of people who have proven themselves to be violent and a threat to those closest to them. The legislation would add to the list of persons disqualified from owning or possessing a firearm individuals who have been convicted of any crime involving domestic violence, regardless of the length, term, or manner of punishment. This includes violent crimes committed by a spouse, former spouse, paramour, parent, guardian or similar individual.

Mr. President, although there is a growing awareness about the problem of domestic violence, in many places, even today, these outrageous acts are not taken as seriously as other forms of brutal behavior. Yet each year an estimated 2 million women are victimized by domestic violence. That is 10 times the number of women who are diagnosed with breast cancer. Of those 2 million women, nearly 6,000 die at the hands of men who at least at one time claimed to love them. About 70 percent of the time, those hands are holding a gun.

Mr. President, much of the killing and maiming associated with domestic violence could not happen but for the presence of a firearm. The New England Journal of Medicine reports that in households with a history of battering, a gun in the home increases the likelihood that a woman will be murdered fivefold. Often, the only difference between a battered woman and a dead woman is the presence of a gun.

Acts of domestic violence, by their nature, are especially dangerous and require special attention. These crimes involve people who have a history together, and who perhaps share a home or a child. These are not violent acts between strangers, and they do not arise from a chance meeting. Even after a split, the individuals involved often by necessity have a continuing relationship of some sort. The husbands, boyfriends, and former husbands who commit these crimes often have a record of violent and threatening behavior. And yet, frequently, these men are being permitted to possess firearms—with no legal restrictions.

The statistics and data are clear. Domestic violence, no matter how it is labeled, leads to more domestic violence. And guns in the hand of convicted spouse abusers lead to death.

To me, Mr. President, it is a simple proposition. Those guilty of acts of domestic violence should not be trusted to acquire or possess a gun. Period.